

1

STATEMENT  
STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, AJE  
 OF, REDACTED  
PALMERSTON

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: REDA 56 - DARWIN  
 TELEPHONE: REDACTED  
 OCCUPATION: TRUCK DRIVER  
 PLACE OF BUSINESS: REDACTED  
 SUBJECT: INDECENT ASSAULT - RETTA DIXON  
 HOME

---

I, AJE, OF REDACTED  
PALMERSTON, DO SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY DECLARE THAT:

That I was born in Darwin on the REDACT 1956 in the old  
 Darwin Hospital at Myilly Point.

My father was REDACTED who I have never seen or met.  
 I believe that my father was an Irishman.

My mother is REDACTED, a part Aboriginal lady who now  
 lives in Alice Springs.

I have had regular contact with her over the years but the  
 last time that I saw her was about 3 years ago but I  
 sometimes speak to her on the phone, the last time being  
 about a month ago.

From what I know I was brought up in Bagot Reserve by a  
 lady by the name of Mrs. CLUTTERBUTT, who was a white lady.

My mother has told me that she had to put me in a home when  
 I was born and that she really never looked after me at any  
 time.

I believe that I stayed with Mrs. CLUTTERBUTT until I was about 3 or 4 years of age and then when Retta Dixon Home was built I was moved to there.

My first cottage parent that I remember was Barbara HENDERSON and her husband Don HENDERSON. The HENDERSON'S occupied number 2 cottage at Retta Dixon.

Other children that I remember who stayed with us at the HENDERSONS were REDACTED Mary Anne WHITTAKER (who is 2 years younger than me) who now goes by the name of Carmen McMAHON, REDACTED Willie McMAHON (3 years younger than me) who died about 5 years ago, Raymond KELLS, Dennis SULLIVAN, his brother Peter SULLIVAN, his sister Pamela SULLIVAN (since deceased), Robert CAMPBELL, Rachel DEMEYER, John GORDON and his sister Gillian GORDON, Peter APPLEBY, Patrick APPLEBY (since deceased) and Paul WEDELL.

I lived at Retta Dixon for approximately 12 years as I got out of the home when I was 16 years old.

I had the same house parents the whole time.

Donald HENDERSON was cruel to us most of the time. We were always getting hidings for silly little things like leaving a ball out or a bike outside. The hidings were always hard and Donald HENDERSON used a cane, which he dipped in oil before he gave us the hiding. The hidings that we got would always leave bruises and these would stay for one to two weeks. The bruises were always large and turned purple.

Most of the time he would hit us on the palm of the hands, the inside of the arms, the back of the hands, the back and the inside of our legs.

Mrs. HENDERSON was good to us most of the time. She never hit us but she would tell Don that we had done something and then Don would give us the hiding.

The cottage that we lived in had 4 bedrooms, the HENDERSON'S slept in one of the rooms, all the girls in another and the boys were divided amongst the other 2 rooms.

The boys in my room were AJO [REDACTED], AKI [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED], AJN [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] AJM [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

We were always well fed but on the odd occasion we were sent to bed without meals if we had been bad.

One of my jobs at Retta Dixon was to look after the chook pen which meant that I had to feed the chooks, collect the eggs and keep the chook pen clean. I did this twice a day, once in the morning before I went to school and then in the evening.

I would have been about 7 or 8 years old when I started doing these jobs.

Sometimes Don HENDERSON would come down to the chook house to help me and this continued until I was about 10 years of age.

I remember that when I was about 10 years of age Don HENDERSON took me to the chook house. We went into the room to get the chook feed out of 44 gallon drums and then Don HENDERSON said to me "Come and sit on my lap". I then went and sat on his lap. Don HENDERSON then started rocking back and forwards and I could feel his private (penis) poking against my pants. He would have done this

for about half an hour. He didn't make any noises but he just kept on doing it. He didn't talk to me. I didn't know what to do, I was very young and very frightened, so I just let him do it. He didn't take his penis out of his pants that I know of.

Sometime he would lay me face down on the chaff bags which were in the same shed as the 44-gallon feed bins and he would tickle my foot with his penis. I didn't see his penis but I could feel it. I am not sure whether it was inside his pants or outside his pants. He would also tickle my feet with his hands and he would do this for between 10 and 20 minutes.

Don HENDERSON would do this mainly in the morning before I went to school but sometimes he would also do it in the evening.

When Barbara HENDERSON went to church on a Sunday night, Don HENDERSON would call us individually into his room. This would have been about 8.30 at night when Barbara HENDERSON had gone to the Aboriginal Inland Mission, which was on the corner of Sabine Rd. and Trower Rd.

Don HENDERSON would call us in and then he would tell us to lay face down on his bed with our head facing the top of the bed. The bed was a double bed with a low base and an innerspring mattress.

I was wearing pyjama pants with no undies and Don HENDERSON would wear pyjama pants with no undies. Both the undies that I wore and the undies that he wore were the short type.

Then Don HENDERSON would sit on the bed near my feet, with his feet up around my back and his penis touching my feet. And then he would hit our feet with a cane and rub his penis on our feet. This cane was not the same one that we

got the hiding with. He had a couple of these canes in the cupboard and he didn't use oil on these canes. Sometimes his penis was inside his trousers and sometimes it was outside his trousers. This would often go on for about an hour. Don HENDERSON never made any noises but he would ask us if it tickled. He would always have a handkerchief with him when he did this but I don't know if he ejaculated or not. I was not allowed to look.

This happened regularly to me and would have happened every week to every second week.

He would also call other boys into his room and these boys told me that he would do the same thing to them.

The boys who told me this were REDACTED AJM  
AKI and AJT.

REDACTED Carmen McMAHON also told me that he did similar things to her and he would also call AKJ into the room.

It didn't only happen on a Sunday night, although this was the main night. If Mrs. HENDERSON went out then he would call someone into his room.

This went on until I left Retta Dixon home.

Don HENDERSON would also sit me on his lap when he drove the tractor around Retta Dixon delivering groceries. Don would let me drive the tractor around and I could feel his penis, which was hard pressing into my back. The tractor only had a small seat, which was only big enough for one person.

There were times when Don HENDERSON would take us with him when he went out to Wild Boar.

At the time he was working part time for Tom ATKINSON who was a safari tour guide and he had access to Wild Boar which was owned by Ronnie BALL.

We would camp around the Billabong and we would sleep in his Holden station wagon, which was Grey in colour and I think may have been an EH model.

The people that I remember going out there where REDACTED  
AJM , AKI , AJT , REDACTED and  
myself.

Mrs. HENDERSON never came out camping with us and there was never any other adults with us.

He would lay me down in the back of the car and he would put my feet against his private (penis) and then he would tickle my feet. I could feel that his penis was hard.

The other boys were outside the car under a canvas which was draped over a tree.

Sometimes I would sleep outside under the canvas and one of the other boys would be in the back of the car with Don HENDERSON.

When we were out bush I don't remember him saying anything.

We would have gone out to Wild Boar about 5 times and it happened to me on 2 occasions. I would have been about 13 at the time.

I WILL BE AVAILABLE TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN DARWIN WHEN REQUIRED AT ANY TIME DURING THE NEXT 3 MONTHS. I DO NOT EXPECT TO CHANGE MY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENCE DURING THAT TIME, NOR DO I EXPECT TO BE ABSENT FROM MY USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE EXCEPT ON WEEKENDS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS STATEMENT MAY BE DISCLOSED FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES.

AND I FURTHER DECLARE THAT I:

(a) HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF 18 YEARS;

AND

(b) I HAVE READ THIS STATEMENT BEFORE SIGNING IT;

AND I MAKE THIS SOLEMN DECLARATION BY VIRTUE OF THE OATHS ACT, CONSCIENTIOUSLY BELIEVING THE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THIS DECLARATION TO BE TRUE IN EVERY PARTICULAR. I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT A PERSON WILFULLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN A STATUTORY DECLARATION IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A PENALTY OF 2,000 DOLLARS OR IMPRISONMENT FOR TWELVE MONTHS OR BOTH.

DECLARED AT PETER MCAULAY CENTRE THIS Monday, 30 DAY OF June, 2014

AJE

BEFORE ME

ROGER NEWMAN  
COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS (NT)  
PETER MCAULAY CENTRE  
TELEPHONE: REDACTED

